

PHILIPPIANS Lesson 51

Chapter 4, verses 14-19: Giving Money to Support God's Work

17 April 2023

BACKGROUND:

- Every saved person is going to heaven.
 - In heaven, you will be like the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - In heaven, you will be filled with joy unspeakable, rejoicing evermore.
 - God wants us to begin living our heavenly life today.
 - This is made possible by the indwelling Holy Spirit as we press toward the mark of being like Jesus Christ.
 - Our Christ-likeness will be manifest by our willingness to lay down our lives for others and for the glory of God.
 - Our willingness to freely give financial support to God's work is one way that we reveal that we are allowing the Holy Spirit to control our life.
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READ VERSES 14-16

- Paul and company left Macedonia to preach the gospel to new regions that had never heard it.
- Money would be needed to finance this venture.
 - One option was that the preachers could work a job and preach part time.
 - The other option was that Christians with jobs could support these men so they could preach and minister full time.
 - Paul employed both of these methods as needed (Acts 18:3, 1 Thess 2:9, 2 Thess 3:8).
 - The Christians who work secular jobs ought to work together with missionaries and preachers to make it possible to get the gospel to those who need it.
 - If you love the souls of men, if you love your neighbor as yourself, you will not complain about giving money to a preacher who is willing to get the gospel to them.
- ***"Ye sent once and again unto my NECESSITY"*** (Vs 16). Money that missionaries and gospel preachers receive as donations is necessary. Without it, they won't be able to stay on the field and reach the lost with the Gospel. One-time gifts are helpful, but we need to be consistent in our giving.

Vs 17 ***"Not because I desire a gift..."*** Paul was thankful for their gifts, but he wasn't covetous.

"But I desire fruit* (souls saved, lives changed, churches built, families rescued) ***that may abound to your account."**

- This reveals that God is keeping track of our giving and our heart motive for giving.

Vs 18 ***"But I have all, and abound: I am full..."*** Why? I received ***"the things which were sent from you."***

- People have a strange idea that missionaries should suffer and accept the fact that their families will be deprived of the things they would like to have.
 - If you love them, you will want them to abound as much as yourself and your family.

"...a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God." These saints gave to missions sacrificially, not expecting anything in return. God is pleased with this kind of giving.

Vs 19 ***"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."***

- The word ***"But"*** is usually omitted so that this verse can be applied incorrectly and selfishly.
 - ***"But"*** is an important conjunction which connects the verse to your sacrificial giving, which gives you an account in heaven to draw from when you need to.